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Absorbent product.

Abstract:

Abstract of EP0238334

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Applicant: **SHISEIDO COMPANY LIMITED**
5-5 Ginza 7-chome
Chuo-ku Tokyo(JP)

Applicant: **Mieux Products Company Ltd.**
1349, Tokunomori
Oozu-shi Ehime(JP)

Inventor: **Saito, Fumiko c/o Shiseido Laboratories**
1050 Nippa-cho Kohoku-ku
Yokohama-shi Kanagawa(JP)

Inventor: **Ikeda, Shinichi c/o Shiseido Laboratories**
1050 Nippa-cho Kohoku-ku
Yokohama-shi Kanagawa(JP)

Inventor: **Hirano, Isao**
c/o Shiseido Company Ltd. 7-5-5 Ginza
Chuo-ku Tokyo(JP)

Inventor: **Yamagiwa, Kiyoko**
c/o Shiseido Company Ltd. 7-5-5 Ginza
Chuo-ku Tokyo(JP)

Inventor: **Kouno, Takanori**
c/o Mieux Products Company Ltd. 1349 Tokunomori
Oozu-shi Ehime(JP)

Representative: **Coxon, Philip et al,**
Eric Potter & Clarkson 14 Oxford Street
Nottingham NG1 5BP(GB)

Absorbent product.

An absorbent product for use in sanitary napkins, diapers, incontinence pads, or the like formed in the shape of a gourd and comprising absorbent layers. At least one of the absorbent layers is provided with a series of embossed patterns each disposed at a dispersion distance from each other in an area away from the peripheral ends of the layer, thereby allowing body fluid to be rapidly absorbed by and permeate in a uniform dispersion in the absorbent layers through the embossed patterns, and thus improving the comfort of the product when worn.

0238334

ABSORBENT PRODUCT

TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to a liquid-absorbent product, particularly to an absorbent product for use in sanitary napkins and diapers for babies, adults, medical
5 purposes, and for domestic animals, or the like, for efficiently absorbing, dispersing and retaining body fluids.

BACKGROUND ART

In conventional techniques, absorbent products used
10 for sanitary napkins, diapers, or the like are formed in general by a top surface sheet having a liquid-permeability, a liquid-resistant bottom surface sheet sealingly joined to the front sheet at the peripheral ends thereof, and a plurality of absorbent layers
15 comprising layers of crushed pulp, absorbent paper, polymer absorbent (sometimes referred to in the art as an superabsorbent), or the like, for absorbing and retaining body fluids such as blood, urine, mucous or other aqueous solutions or dispersions contained between
20 the top sheet and the bottom sheet.

In an example of such an absorbent product comprising a layer of polymeric materials, body fluids absorbed therein via the liquid permeable top sheet are gelled and retained, and thus prevented from flowing
25 out. By applying a polymer absorbent to a matrix, particularly for use in diapers, sanitary napkins, or the like which are intended to absorb relatively large volumes of liquids, the absorption capacity has been greatly increased, and as a result, absorbent products
30 using such an absorbent layer have been made small and thin, thus, giving a relative improvement in comfort while worn. However, due to settling or bunching of the polymer powder or particles during storage or wearing, body fluids are absorbed only in an extremely limited
35 area, and therefore, large areas of the absorbent

product are not efficiently used. Also, body fluids do not disperse throughout the polymer absorbent layer, but are retained in parts of the layer. As a result, when the absorbent product is subject to a pressure, problems
5 often occur in that the absorbed and retained fluids flow back to the top sheet, leak from the sides of the absorbent product, or even permeate the liquid resistant bottom sheet.

An absorbent product comprising a crushed pulp
10 layer also has an excellent absorbent characteristics, but the conventional absorbent products comprising a crushed pulp layer or other absorbent layers have similar problems to those described above.

Various sanitary napkins have been proposed, but
15 none have succeeded in preventing leakage caused by twisting, kinking, slipping, or the like of the napkins during wear.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is intended to solve the
20 above-mentioned problems inherent in the prior art.

An object of the present invention is to provide an absorbent product comprising liquid-absorbent layers wrapped in a liquid-permeable sheet and a liquid-resistant sheet, at least one of the liquid-absorbent
25 layers having a series of embossed patterns each formed at a certain distance in a region away from the peripheral ends thereof so that body fluids can be rapidly absorbed by and uniformly dispersed within the absorbent layers, whereby a flow back and leakage of the
30 body fluids are eliminated and comfort during wear is improved.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an absorbent product that is comfortable when worn by designing the absorbent product in a shape such
35 that the product is narrow at the middle portion of the length thereof and widened at each end of the length thereof.

0238334

A further object of the present invention is to provide an absorbent product comprising a liquid-resistant sheet having a U-shaped vertical sectional dimension, thereby preventing leakage of body fluids from the sides of the absorbent product.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a sanitary napkin made of the absorbent product according to the present invention in which leakage of the body fluids at the sides thereof, caused by twisting, kinking, or slipping of the napkin can be prevented by defining the napkin in the shape of a gourd having a size of 47 mm to 65 mm at the narrow portion thereof.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings show preferable embodiments of the present invention, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an absorbent product wherein the layers and sheets are disassembled;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken along the line A-A in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of an absorbent layer of Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a diagrammatical view showing the flow of body fluids around embossed patterns in an absorbent layer;

Fig. 6 is a plan view showing a dimensional relationship of a napkin in accordance with the present invention; and,

Fig. 7 illustrates the relationship between a napkin and the body, when worn.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The absorbent product of the present invention comprises a plurality of liquid-absorbent layers wrapped in a liquid-permeable sheet and a liquid-resistant sheet and having a shape such that it is narrow at the middle portion of the length and widened at opposite ends of the length thereof. In the preferred embodiment, the

0238334

narrowest portion and the most widest portion are connected by a natural rounded curve, as further mentioned hereinafter. The term "liquid" as used herein denotes aqueous fluids or liquids and is intended to
5 include fluids such as saline, serum, blood, mucous, and other aqueous solutions or dispersions.

A liquid-permeable sheet and a liquid-resistant sheet in the art are generally formed in the same shape and in the same size, and are sealed at the respective
10 peripheral ends thereof. In a preferred embodiment according to the present invention, the liquid-resistant sheet has a substantially U-shaped vertical cross section and to avoid leakage from the sides of the product, absorbent layers having substantially the same
15 size as the bottom face of the U-shape are contained therein and sealed at the opening end of the U-shape.

According to the present invention, at least one of the absorbent layers has a plurality of embossed patterns disposed at a certain distance on the inside thereof
20 away from the peripheral ends of the layer. In the preferred embodiment, the embossed patterns are applied to all of the absorbent layers, to accelerate the permeability of body fluids permeating from the liquid-permeable top sheet through the absorbent layers to the
25 liquid-resistant bottom sheet. In the present invention, there can be employed, alternatively or in combination, any kind of absorbent layers or sheets such as crushed pulp layer, polymer absorbent layer incorporating therein a particulated polymer absorbent, or a non-woven
30 fabric layer subjected to needling by a water jet technique, or any other layer having an absorption capacity.

The embossed pattern of the absorbent layer according to the present invention is preferably linear,
35 to give an efficient dispersion of fluids in the layer while maintaining the soft touch of the product although various patterns such as dot, hexagonal, and so on can

be selected. Additionally, it is preferably the patterns are disposed such that there is sufficient dispersion distance between adjacent patterns in the absorbent layer or layers. When the embossed patterns are applied
5 to a plurality of absorbent layers, preferably the same patterns are formed at the same positions in the absorbent layers to further increase the permeability from layer to layer when piled on the liquid-resistant sheet. The expression "dispersion distance" as employed
10 herein denotes a distance between the adjacent embossed patterns in both the up-and-down and the left-to-right directions and intended to allow a substantially uniform liquid dispersion in the absorbent layer.

Further, preferably the embossed patterns are
15 disposed in the region away from the outer peripheral ends of an absorbent layer, to prevent the leakage of body fluids from the sides of the absorbent product when used as a sanitary napkin, diaper, or the like, and to provide a soft touch and comfortable feeling when worn.

20 The foregoing will be better understood with reference to the drawings. The embodiments shows the absorbent product of the present invention. In Fig. 1, a liquid-resistant sheet 1 has a U-shaped vertical cross section having a container portion 2 and a flange
25 portion 3 at an opening end and a plane bottom face having an arc-shaped narrow portion 4 at the middle of the length and an arc-shaped widened portion at the opposite ends of the length thereof. The liquid-resistant sheet may be a paper or non-woven fabric of
30 which one or both sides are laminated with a polyethylene sheet, but is not limited thereto. on the other outer side of the liquid-resistant sheet 1, a further bottom sheet 5 having the same shape as that of the liquid-resistant sheet 1 is provided to enhance the
35 touch (see Fig. 1). The flange portion 3 of the liquid-resistant sheet is fixed by hot melt bonding with a liquid-permeable top sheet 6, as shown in Fig. 3. The

0238334

liquid-permeable sheet is made of a non-woven fabric consisting of a polypropylene fiber and a polyethylene fiber.

Fig. 1 illustrates one embodiment according to the present invention with the layers disassembled. Referring to Fig. 1, a layer 7 made of a crimped fiber of polyester polypropylene, acetate, rayon or the like is provided underneath the liquid-permeable sheet 6. The employment of the crimped fiber layer 7 provides a better contact between the liquid-permeable sheet 6 and an absorbent paper sheet 8 by filling the space or gap between the liquid-permeable sheet 6 and the absorbent paper sheet 8, which would disturb the flow of body fluids to the absorbent paper sheet 8.

A crushed pulp layer 9 is positioned underneath the absorbent paper 8, and an absorbent wadding layer 11 is positioned underneath the crushed pulp layer 9. As the absorbent wadding layer, there can be employed a cotton or a rayon fiber per se, or the composition thereof. The crushed pulp layer 9 has an excellent absorption capacity, as is well known in the art, in that body fluids are rapidly absorbed through cellulose fibers of the pulp by a capillary action but are retained in the cellulose fibers and are not allowed to disperse. Therefore, the absorption is partial and bunched within a limited area, and is not dispersed throughout and within the pulp layer 9. In this embodiment, to allow the dispersion in the face direction of the pulp layer 9, a series of embossed patterns are formed over a defined area. The absorbent wadding layer 11 employed herein is subjected to needling by a water jet technique to accelerate the uniform dispersion and rapid absorption of the body fluids. In addition, a series of embossed patterns are formed in the same manner as in the crushed pulp layer 9 to efficiently disperse body fluids within the layer 11.

In this embodiment, an polymer absorbent layer 12

0238334

is further provided under the absorbent wadding layer 11. The employment of a polymer absorbent in the absorbent product provides a small and thin product with an increased absorbency. However, the uniform dispersion
5 of the absorbed fluids is still unsatisfactory. To increase the dispersion rate embossed patterns are formed in the same manner as in the absorbent wadding layer 11. Note, the polymer absorbent material is not limited in this invention and can be selected from any
10 such material employed at present in the art.

An absorbent paper sheet 13 is provided between the polymer absorbent layer 12 and the liquid-resistant sheet 1. This absorbent paper sheet 13 efficiently absorbs also body fluids leaked from the polymer
15 absorbent layer 12 when subjected to a pressure or a large volume of liquid. The absorbent paper sheet 13 also acts as a screen for obstructing a view of body fluids through the liquid-resistant sheet 1.

The employment of the absorbent layers such as the
20 crushed pulp layer 9, the absorbent wadding layer 11, and the polymer absorbent layer 12, can be selected according to need. In this embodiment, the absorbent paper sheet 13, polymer absorbent layer 12, the absorbent wadding layer 11, the crushed pulp layer 9, and the
25 absorbent paper sheet 8 are all (as shown by 10 in Fig. 1) provided with a series of embossed patterns each having a linear shape 14. These respective absorbent sheets and layers are provided with the same pattern in the same position, i.e., three rows 16 composed of a
30 series of linear embossed patterns in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent layer are provided.

Referring now to Fig. 4, each of the embossed patterns is disposed at the dispersion distances 15 and 17 from the adjacent patterns in the longitudinal
35 direction and transverse direction thereof, to substantially achieve a uniform dispersion within a certain area of the absorbent layer. The respective lines 16 of

the adjacent linear embossed patterns are alternatively disposed. Further, the respective embossed lines are formed in an area having a certain distance 18 from the peripheral ends of an absorbent layer to define a non-dispersion area. By "non-dispersion area" as employed herein is meant an inner region along the periphery of an absorbent sheet or layer and is intended to be a region outside of the dispersion area, wherein a dispersion means is not intentionally employed. In this embodiment, the embossed pattern 14 has a width of 2 to 4 mm, and a length of 15 to 70 mm. The longitudinal dispersion distance 15 is 5 to 25 mm, and the traverse dispersion distance 17 is 10 to 20 mm. The non-dispersion distance 18 at the opposite peripheral ends is 10 to 70 mm, and at the respective opposite side areas, 10 to 25 mm.

Figure 5 is a diagrammatical view explaining the flow of body fluids in a face direction of an absorbent layer via the embossed patterns, wherein the dots show the dispersion areas around the embossed patterns. Arrow lines show the directions of dispersion of the low body fluid. When body fluids are in contact with embossed patterns having a relatively high density of the materials employed as absorbent layers, with an accompanying rapid absorption by the layers, the fluids flow in the arrowed direction to the embossed patterns and expand around the patterns to form uniform dispersion areas shown by dots in the transverse directions 17 as well as the longitudinal direction 15. Even when subject to a large volume of body fluids, the body fluids can be rapidly absorbed by the layer through the embossed pattern, expand in the pattern, and flow out of the patterns to disperse around the pattern to form the dispersion areas 15 and 17 between the adjacent patterns. The employment of embossed patterns having such dispersion areas, efficiently utilizes the pulp layer 9, the polymer absorbent layer 12, and the absorbent

0238334

wadding layer 11 having a relatively high absorbency.

Partial bunching and partial retention of body fluids are eliminated in those absorbent layers by increasing the absorbent capacity thereof and imparting a uniform dispersion capacity. Therefore, a flow back and leakage of body fluids in the absorbent product of the present invention when used for sanitary napkins or diapers, are efficiently prevented.

Next, a sanitary napkin made of the absorbent product as shown in Fig. 1 is explained. Figure 6 shows the dimensional relationship of the narrow portion L at the middle of the length and the widened portions at the opposite ends of the length of the absorbent layers. In Fig. 6, A and B represent the opposite widened portions, respectively. The widened portion A has a width of 54 mm - 77 mm, and the widened portion B has a width of 58 mm to 90 mm. The dimensional ratio of A : B may be in a range of 1 : 1 to 1 : 1.5. The narrow portion L has a width in the range of 47 mm to 65 mm. The length C of the absorbent layers may be 150 mm to 250 mm.

When wearing the sanitary napkin, the sides of the narrow portion fit the body 21 as shown in Fig. 7. Accordingly, there is little pressure on and consequent deformation of the side recesses 4 by the body 21. In other words, the napkin is little influenced by the movement of the body, whereby the twisting, kinking, or slipping occurring while wearing the conventional sanitary napkins is prevented.

If the dimension of the narrow portion L is too small, covering is not sufficiently executed, and accordingly, such a napkin is not useful. On the other hand, if the dimension of the narrow portion is too large, such a napkin will be easily twisted or will slip. The above-mentioned dimensions of 47 mm to 65 mm are selected on a basis of various test results, and with this size, the napkin is a comfortable fit when

0238334

worn and side-leakage of the body fluids is efficiently prevented.

EXAMPLE 1

Sanitary napkins were prepared by sealing together
5 a top sheet made of a non-woven fabric of polyethylene
fiber and polypropylene fiber and a bottom sheet having
a U-shaped cross section made of a laminated non-woven
fabric of polyester fiber with a polyethylene sheet
containing therein an absorbent paper sheet, a polymer
10 absorbent layer, an absorbent wadding layer subjected to
needling by water jet technique a crushed pulp layer, an
absorbent paper sheet, and a crimped fiber layer
alternately piled as shown in Fig. 1.

Each napkin was formed in the shape of a gourd,
15 wherein each absorbent layer had an widened portion of
62 mm at the forward and 66 mm at the backward thereof,
a narrow portion of the sizes as shown in Table 1, and a
length of 160 mm. On the face of each absorbent layer,
except for the crimped cotton layer, were formed three
20 rows of linear embossed patterns as shown in Fig. 4.
Each pattern was formed at a certain distance, had a
width of 2.5 mm, and a length of 20 mm. The distance
between the adjacent linear patterns in the longitudinal
direction was 10 mm. The distance between the adjacent
25 pattern in the transverse direction was 12.5 mm.

The three rows of the patterns were positioned
within an area 110 mm x 25 mm from the length ends and
side ends respectively of the absorbent layers.

The samples were subjected to comfort, leakage,
30 slippage, and twisting tests. Table 1 shows the results
after being worn for three hours by 30 women, two days
from the beginning of menstruation.

In the table, comfort is shown by the average
values of the evaluation by the 30 women, and is
35 evaluated by points, 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 for, respec-
tively; "good", "fairly good", "average", "poor",
and "bad". The higher points show a better comfort.

0238334

Leakage is shown by percentages of the number of leakages to the number of used napkins. Slippage is shown by the average values evaluated by points, 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 for, respectively; "no slip at all", "no slip", "some slip", "slip", and "extreme slippage". The higher point show the napkins which had very little slip. Twisting is evaluated by the average values evaluated by points, 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 for, respectively, "no twist at all", "no twist", "some twist", "twist", "extreme twisting". The higher values show the napkins that did not twist.

The values for each test are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Width of narrow portion mm	Comfort	Leakage %	Slippage	Twisting
40	4.5	46	4.0	4.6
47	4.3	20	4.2	4.4
54	4.2	12	4.7	4.3
57	3.8	20	4.0	3.8
60	3.3	23	3.9	3.5
65	3.0	22	2.8	3.1
70	2.8	26	3.5	2.6

EXAMPLE 2

Sanitary napkins were prepared in a similar manner to Example 1 except that the narrow portion of each napkin had a width of 54 mm and the dimensional ratio of one widened portion to the other widened portion for each napkin was changed as shown in Table 2. The samples were subject to similar tests under similar conditions as in Example 1. The results are shown in

0238334

Table 2.

Table 2

Dimensional ratio	Comfort	Leakage %	Slippage	Twisting
1:0.7	2.8	33	2.5	3.5
1:1	3.8	20	4.1	4.2
1:1.3	4.2	12	4.7	4.3
1:1.5	4.0	17	4.5	4.5
1:1.2	3.2	27	2.1	3.8

Comparative Example

For comparison, similar tests under similar conditions to those in Examples 1 and 2 were run on napkins made by similar materials and similar composition to those of Example 1 except that they have no embossed pattern in the absorbent layers and they are formed in the shape of a rectangle having a width of 70 mm and a length of an absorbent layer portion of 175 mm; the whole length including a heat-sealed portion of 195 mm.

The results for each test were as follows.

Table 3

Comparative Example	Comfort	Leakage	Slippage	Twisting
	2.6	26.7%	3.1	2.3

As seen from the test results, the napkins produced according to the present invention are far superior in each test to the Comparative Example napkin.

0238334

CLAIMS

1. An absorbent product comprising a plurality of liquid-absorbent layers wrapped in a liquid-permeable sheet and a liquid-resistant sheet, characterized in that said absorbent product is formed in a shape such
5 that it is narrow at a middle portion of a length thereof and widened at opposite ends of the length thereof, and that at least one layer of said plurality of absorbent layers is provided with a series of embossed patterns each formed at a certain distance in an area
10 away from peripheral ends of said layer.

2. An absorbent product comprising a plurality of liquid-absorbent layers wrapped in a liquid-permeable sheet and a liquid-resistant sheet, characterized in that said absorbent product is formed in a shape such
15 that it is narrow at a middle portion of a length thereof and widened at opposite ends of the length thereof, that at least one layer of said plurality of absorbent layers is provided with a series of embossed patterns each formed at a certain distance in an area
20 away from peripheral ends of said absorbent layer, and that said liquid-resistant sheet has a U-shaped vertical cross section.

3. An absorbent product comprising a plurality of liquid-absorbent layers wrapped in a liquid-permeable
25 sheet and a liquid-resistant sheet, characterized in that said absorbent product is formed in a shape such that it is narrow at a middle portion of the length thereof and widened at opposite ends of said length, and that said plurality of absorbent layers comprise a
30 crushed pulp layer having a series of embossed patterns each disposed at a certain distance in an area away from peripheral ends of said layers.

4. An absorbent product comprising a plurality of liquid-absorbent layers wrapped in a liquid-permeable
35 sheet and a liquid-resistant sheet characterized in that said absorbent product is formed in a shape such that it

0238334

is narrow at the middle portion of the length thereof
and widened at opposite ends of the length, and that
said plurality of absorbent layers comprise a polymer
absorbent layer having a series of embossed patterns
5 each formed at a certain distance in an area away from
peripheral ends of said layers.

5. An absorbent product comprising a plurality of
liquid-absorbent layers wrapped in a liquid-permeable
sheet and a liquid-resistant sheet characterized in that
10 said absorbent product is formed in the shape such that
it is narrow at the middle portion of the length thereof
and widened at opposite ends of the length, and that
said plurality of absorbent layers comprise an absorbent
wadding layer subjected to needling and have a series of
15 embossed patterns disposed at certain distances in an
area away from peripheral ends of the layers.

6. An absorbent product according to claim 2, in
which the liquid-resistant sheet is covered by a non-
woven fabric sheet.

20 7. An absorbent product according to claims 2, 3,
4, 5, or 6, in which the embossed pattern of the
absorbent layer is a linear pattern.

8. An absorbent product according to claim 7, in
which a series of said linear embossed patterns are
25 disposed in the longitudinal direction of said absorbent
layers.

9. An absorbent product according to claims 2, 3,
4, 5, or 6, in which the embossed pattern is a dot
pattern.

30 10. An absorbent product according to claim 2, 3,
4, 5, or 6, in which the embossed pattern of the
absorbent layer is a hexagonal pattern.

11. An absorbent product according to any one of
claims 6 to 10, in which a series of the embossed
35 patterns are disposed in positions such that an
appropriate dispersion area is formed between adjacent
patterns.

0238334

12. An absorbent product according to any one of claims 6 to 11, in which each of said absorbent layers is provided with the same patterns in the same position.

13. An absorbent product according to claim 2, in
5 which the U-shaped liquid-resistant sheet contains a plurality of said absorbent layers comprising an absorbent paper sheet, a polymer absorbent layer, an absorbent wadding layer, a crushed pulp layer, an absorbent paper sheet, and a crimped fiber layer
10 alternately piled therein, and the peripheral ends of the resistant sheet are fixed to the peripheral ends of the liquid-permeable sheet.

14. A sanitary napkin characterized by comprising the absorbent product according to any one of claims 1
15 to 5.

15. A sanitary napkin according to claim 14, in which the narrow portion has a width in the range of 47 mm to 57 mm.

16. A sanitary napkin according to claim 14, in
20 which the absorbent layers have a length of 150 mm to 160 mm.

17. A sanitary napkin according to claim 14, in which the dimensional ratio of one widened portion to the other widened portion is 1 : 1 to 1 : 1.5.

18. A sanitary napkin comprising the absorbent
25 product of claim 2 in which the U-shaped liquid-resistant sheet is provided with a flange at the periphery of an opening portion thereof.



Established 1889

ERIC POTTER & CLARKSON

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24th April 1987

Dear Sirs

European Patent Application No 87302356.8
"ABSORBENT PRODUCT"
Shiseido Company Ltd & Mieux Products Co Ltd

We have noticed a clerical error in claims 15 and 16 and we request correction of this error under Article 88 EPC.

The errors are as follows:

- (1) in claim 15, line 3, change "57 mm" to "65 mm"; and
- (2) in claim 16, line 3, change "160 mm" to "250 mm".

We would be grateful if you would effect the corrections to the specification on file, so that the application can be published with the corrections incorporated.

It is clear from page 9 lines 18 to 21 that it is obvious that nothing else would have been intended than what is offered as the correction.

Yours faithfully
ERIC POTTER & CLARKSON

Philip Coxon

P Coxon, BSc, CPA, EPA · B N Shearer, CPA, EPA, MITMA · G MacGregor, CPA, EPA · B Dealtry, BSc, CPA, EPA · J Singleton, CPA, EPA, MITMA

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M Beeden, Admin · L Wright, Accounts

Also at Reading

Fig. 1

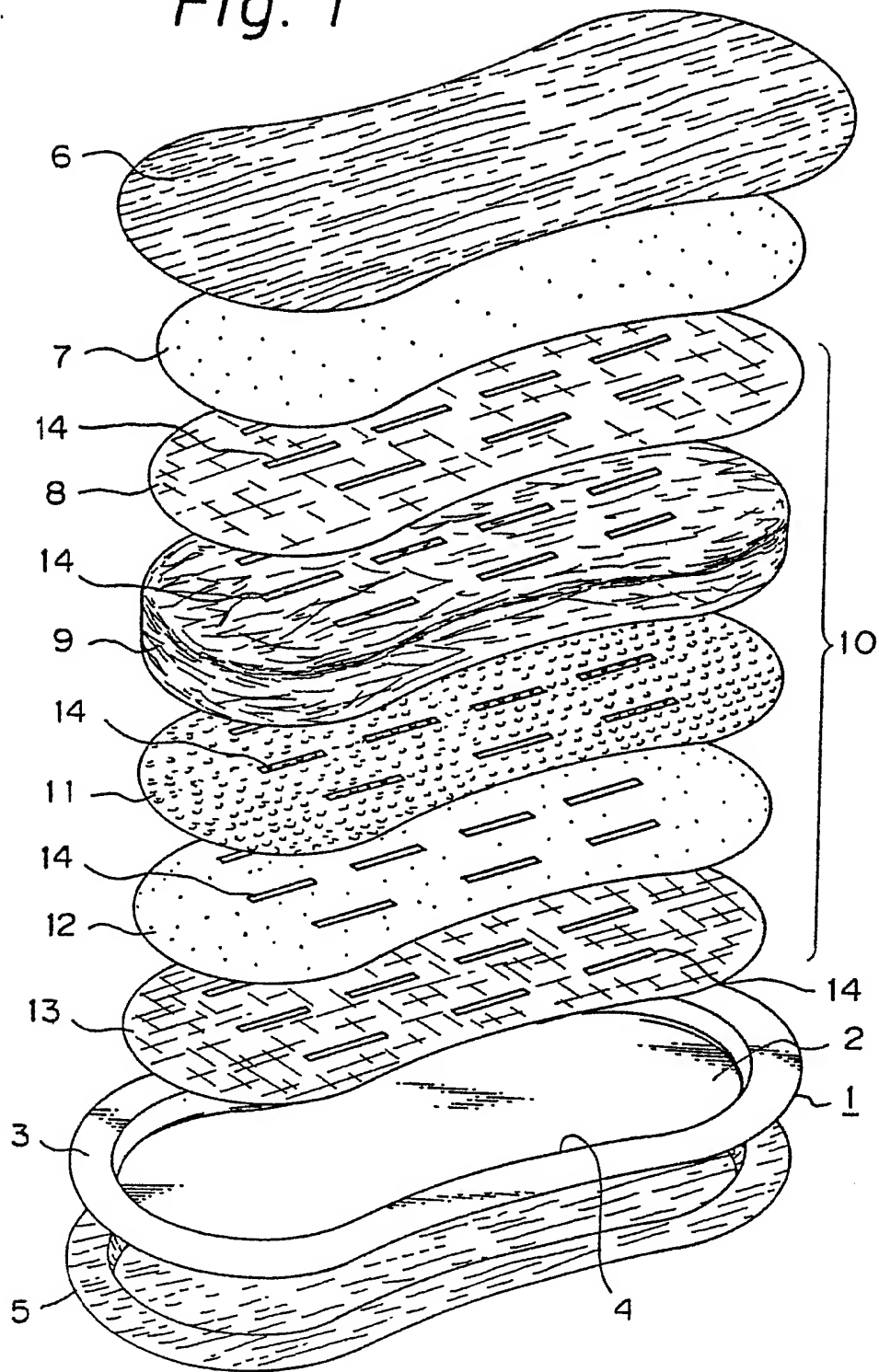


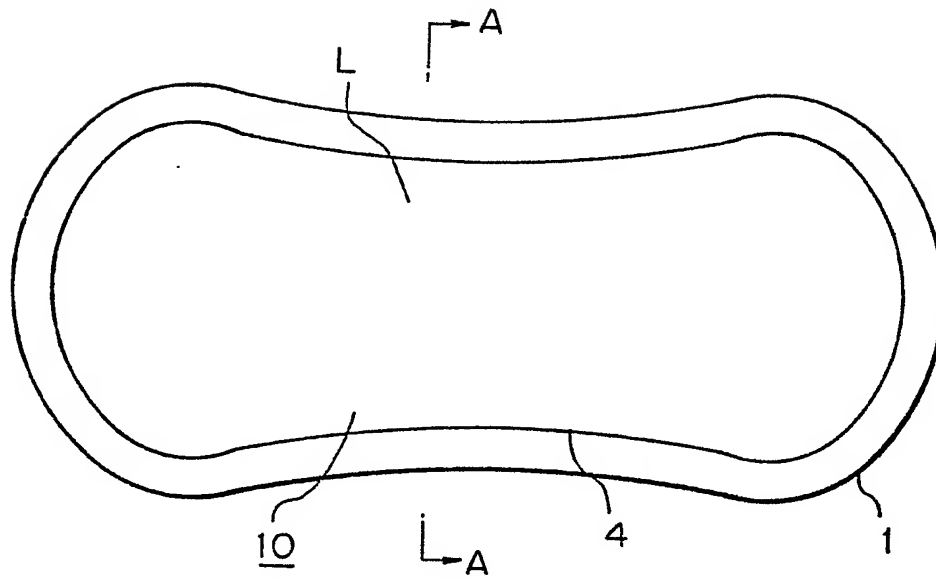
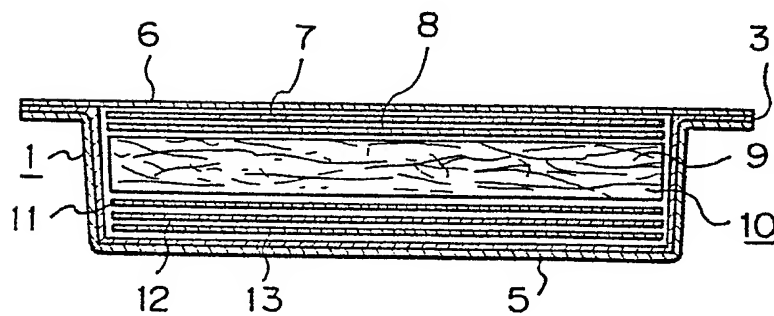
Fig. 2*Fig. 3*

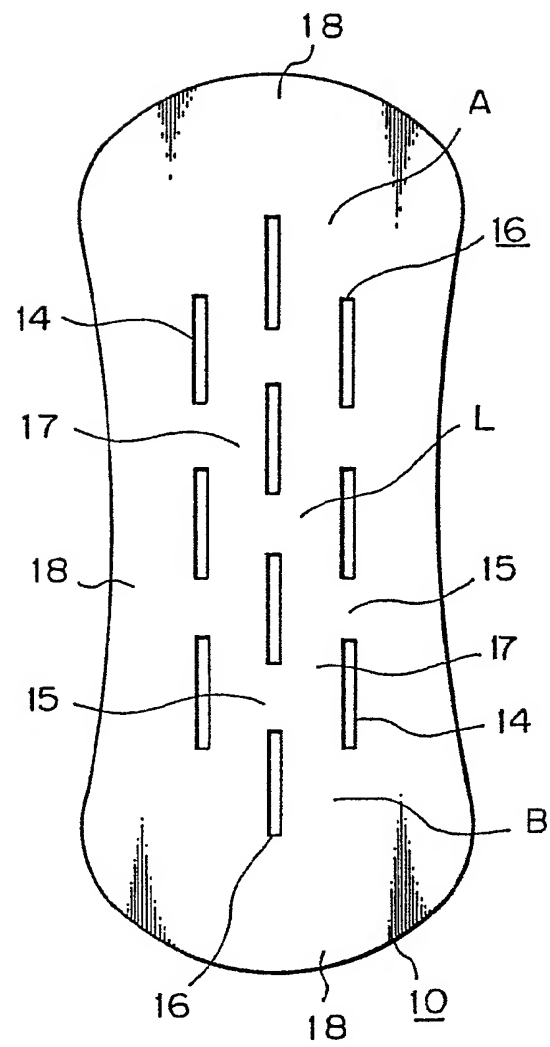
Fig. 4

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of a garment 10. The garment has a top edge 18 and a bottom edge 16. A central vertical axis 14 is shown, passing through a central dot. The axis is flanked by two vertical columns of rectangular elements 15, each surrounded by a dotted circular area 17. The entire assembly is within a larger boundary 10. Labels A and B indicate specific regions on the right side.

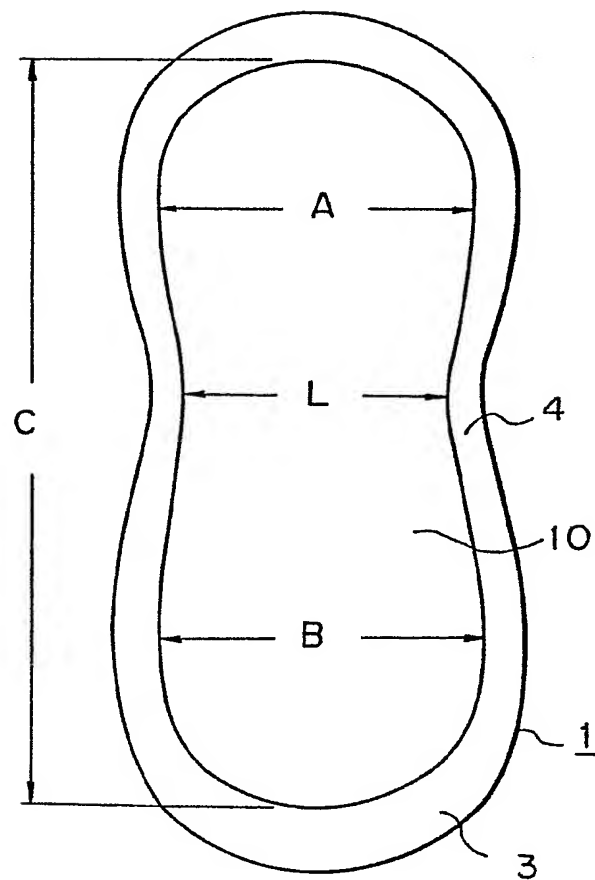
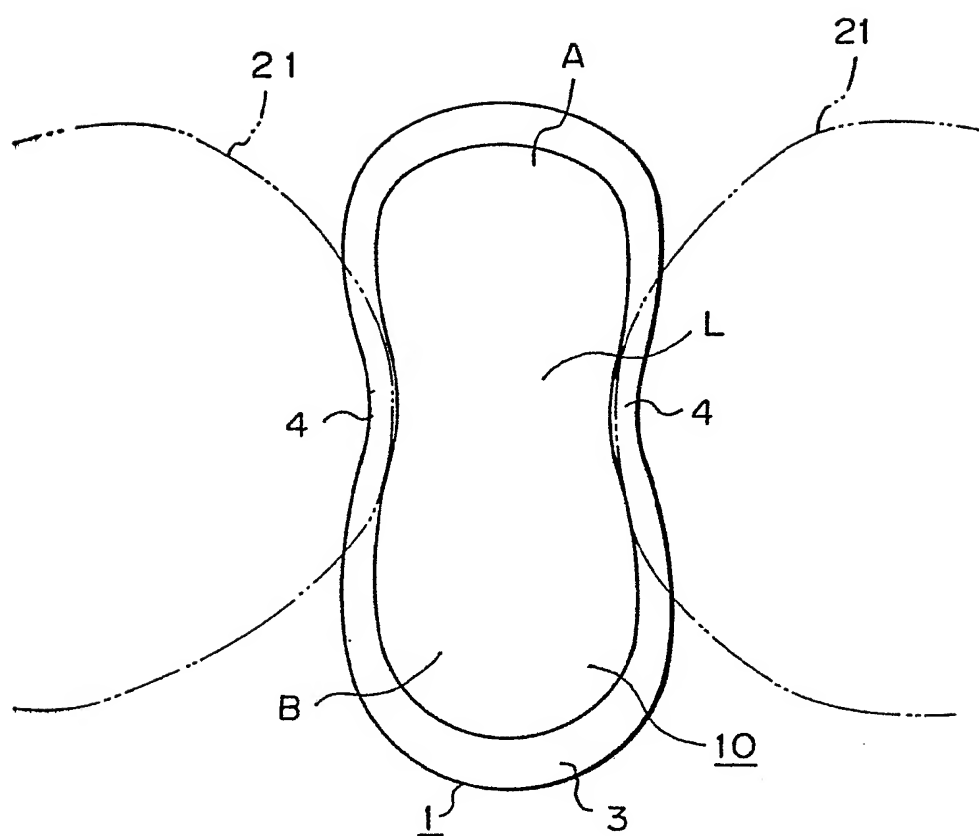
Fig. 6

Fig. 7



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 87302356.8
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
A	DE - A1 - 2 904 634 (UNI-CHARM) * Claims * --	1,4,5	A 61 F 13/16 A 61 F 13/18 A 61 F 5/44
A	EP - A1 - 0 139 484 (PERSONAL) * Abstract; page 20, line 29 - page 21, line 3 * --	1,14-16	A 41 B 13/02
A	GB - A - 2 089 214 (KIMBERLY) * Totality * --	1,7,8	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search VIENNA		Date of completion of the search 24-06-1987	Examiner BECKER
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			